

THE MCKINLEY TIMES

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Serving the McKinley Community Since 2020

Volume VII

Who is Amanda Gorman?

by Zoe G.

Amanda Gorman is our National Youth Poet Laureate. What is a poet laureate, you might ask? According to Wikipedia, a poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions. On January 20, 2021, Amanda Gorman read her poem "The Hill We Climb" at President Joe Biden's Inauguration Day. At 22 years old, she is the youngest poet laureate in history to read at an inauguration. Amanda also made history when she read her speech on the same day of Vice President Kamala Harris' Inauguration who is now our first woman Vice President and is the first woman of color to serve that position.

Amanda was born in Los Angeles and has two siblings. Amanda is a twin and was raised by her mom who was a teacher. She rarely watched TV growing up and thought of herself as a weird child because she enjoyed reading and writing. Amanda has a disorder where she is hypersensitive to sound and she went to speech therapy to get through it. At the age of 14, she became the first Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate while she was in the WriteGirl program. She attended New Roads School right here in Santa Monica! Amanda graduated from Harvard University and is an award-winning writer. She has spoken at many historic events across the country. She has already written a poetry book called "The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough" in 2015 and she will be working on two children's books in the future. Did I mention she also wrote for black athletes for Nike?

She is truly unstoppable and so inspiring! You too can be like Amanda. Read more, write more and express yourself! I'll leave you with some of her words.

*"We will not march back to what was
but move to what shall be
A country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold,
fierce and free."*

- Amanda Gorman



2021 Inauguration

by Molly L.

On January 20th, 2021, a new President and Vice President were inaugurated. Joe Biden was sworn in to the position of President of the United States, and Kamala Harris was sworn in as Vice President. She is now the first ever African American, Asian American, and female Vice President of the United States in history.

January 20th was a very special day at Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and across the country. The day not only included the swearing in of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, but also musical and literary performances to mark the occasion, and Joe Biden's first speech as President. Due to the Pandemic, there was a limit for people who could attend the inauguration and everyone who was there had to be masked.

The day started partly cloudy, then it started snowing at the Capitol! But, in the end, the sun was shining as a new administration was put in place.

Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, and Garth Brooks were among the talented singers who performed and were truly outstanding. They sang songs that showcased the U.S. and the meaning our new president is trying to communicate to all who call America home.

There was also a poet who recited a special poem she wrote called "The Hill We Climb." Twenty-two year old National Poet Youth Laureate Amanda Gorman is the youngest poet to ever speak at a Presidential Inauguration. She grew up in Los Angeles and went to high school in Santa Monica, before graduating from Harvard. All of her poems are well written and have beautiful meanings. A part of Amanda Gorman's poem read, "For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Overall, this inauguration was fun, exciting, and marked a new era in our country. Joe Biden is the 46th President and Kamala Harris is the 49th Vice President. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will enjoy the roles of President and Vice President of the United States, working to make the country a better place for all Americans.

CURRENT EVENTS

The US Presidential Race Between November and Today: Looking Back and Ahead



by Shayla A.

The Presidential election in November of 2020 was a tense race. This is because the country was very divided and because of COVID 19. More people voted than ever before because it was such an important election, maybe one of the most important ones in our history. This is because whoever won would have to work to end the pandemic.

Getting the results of this presidential election was confusing. In one state it looked like Biden won over the state but then Donald Trump did. This proves that it was a very close election. There are also states called swing states. Swing states are states that switch between democrats and republicans. Also in this election, Georgia became a swing state when it voted for Biden so it had quite some attention.

The Covid 19 pandemic made the election difficult because of having more mail in ballots. This also slowed the time of getting the answers of who won the election because mail in ballots kept flowing in. There was no getting them to stop. But the votes did all get counted.

Many houses were tense and the election is all they could talk about because we didn't find out the results until 5 days later.

After all the confusion, Joe Biden is our new president. Someone who also got elected with him is Kamala Harris. She is the first black and Indian woman to be Vice President. This is a historic moment. Kamala Harris was part of the Senate before Joe Biden chose her to be Vice President.

However, Donald Trump says that there was fraud. Thousands agreed, but when the issue was looked into, there was no evidence stating that there was fraud. There were several recounts and in the end the elections stated Biden won. It is not true that there was fraud. A person might not like that fact but it's true.

Thousands went to marches saying the election was fraud. We had an unexpected and unpleasant experience at the Capitol, and most know about this. I am talking about the riot at the Capitol. The Capitol was trespassed by thousands. Now more than ever the Capitol needs security.

Donald Trump was recently impeached. He was impeached because he did not stop the Capitol riot. This was the choice that the House of Representatives made. He has not been convicted yet. There is another vote to convict him in the Senate.

As you can see a lot happened. After all this, I feel ready to move on to focusing on school and COVID 19 and am glad we can look forward to a new year.



CURRENT EVENTS

Lunar New Year: Another New Year?

by An N.

Lunar New Year this year starts on February 12th. You may think, “Um, I thought New Year’s was January 1st?” Valid question. Let me explain.

Lunar New Year is a tradition that many Asian countries celebrate. This holiday is exactly like Chinese New Year; they just have different names including Chinese New Year, Chunjie, Tet, Solnal, Losar, Spring Festival, and of course, Lunar New Year. There are many unique traditions, and it has a set of rules that you should follow. Tradition says, broken rules will result in bad things happening throughout the year.

Why does Lunar New Year start on the 12th? It seems quite unusual. Well, like the name hints, it is because of the Lunar Calendar. It begins on the first new moon that falls from the 21st of January and the 21st of February (Gregorian Calendar perspective). So, now you know why in 2021 it starts on February 12th!

Now, I know you want to know some of the traditions celebrated! During Tet, they’d dress up in the traditional clothes, do ancestral worship, wish New Year’s greetings, and give lucky money to the children and elderly. During Tet, you often have family reunions! In China, they’d have a parade, there’s fireworks, and they pray to their ancestors and the gods.

Lastly, rules that you should/have to follow. What to do: set off fireworks (in many parts of China and others), eat dumplings (a popular tradition in Northern China), and clean your house, but BEFORE the Lunar New Year. What not to do: don’t wash or cut your hair,

clean on the first day of Lunar New Year or buy books (Spring Festival tradition).

Setting off fireworks: this is to ward off/scare evil spirits away! Eating dumplings: the Chinese word “jiao zi,” is similar to the ancient word for new replacing the old, it also looks like ancient times’ gold. If eaten it’ll bring fortune! Cleaning your house, before Lunar New Year: this is so that you can clean off all the bad luck that has come from the old year. Washing or cutting your hair, this is because cleaning or cutting your hair is thought to be cutting or washing your fortune away. Cleaning: this is because it will clean away the good luck (don’t even wash the dishes). If you want to clean, do it the second day. Buying books: this is because in Chinese the word “book” sounds like the word lose. You don’t want to have bad luck!

Didn’t you have fun learning about Lunar New Year? If you want to learn more, you can research about Lunar New Year. Well, I hope you loved learning about Lunar New Year and it’s tradition!

Staying Green in Quarantine

by Aria E.

Our environment is a valuable resource and it is our responsibility to take care of it. “Going Green” includes all sorts of things to help the environment, like the three Rs -- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Reduce means to use less of something, like paper towels or single-use plastics. Reuse means to use something again, which could include repurposing or upcycling things that you would normally throw away. I love to make crafts out of old boxes. I also use old glass and plastic bottles to do cooking and science experiments. Recycle means to convert waste into reusable material. Lots of items can be recycled, such as plastic

bottles, cardboard, and even polystyrene. Small actions can make a big difference. During this pandemic, you can do even more to help the environment. Ideas include using reusable (washable) masks and gloves and upcycling hand sanitizer bottles. (Don’t forget to clean them out first!) We need to do things like this because all living creatures depend on us to save the planet. Talk to your teacher and family about ways that you can do more to go green.

The NBA Start of Season

by Jonah Cohen

So far the 2020-2021 season has started well. Covid cases haven’t been a problem for the NBA. Commissioner Adam Silver has done well handling the situation. Players are socially distancing The LA Lakers have quickly raced to the top of the league. So far the NBA Standings look similar with most of the top teams doing well. But a few teams aren’t, the Houston Rockets, Miami Heat, and Toronto Raptors are some top teams not doing so well. All three of those teams made it to the playoffs, and the Heat made it to the NBA finals but lost to the Lakers in 6 games.

Staying Busy in Quarantine

by Jonah C.

Keeping yourself occupied during quarantine is important. Here are some favorite activities of some students.

1. Watching Television
2. Playing Sports
3. Reading Books
4. Playing Video Games
5. Doing Art
6. Playing Music
7. Going Fishing

MCKINLEY NEWS

STEM Club at McKinley

by Jacob M.

STEM Club with Ms. Oyenoki is McKinley's Science Club. It is really fun! You get to do 3D stuff along with other cool science experiments. If you like Science, you should definitely sign up. If you don't like Science, you should still give it a try. Science is one of my favorite subjects, but I didn't really like it at first. Once I started doing Science, I realized how awesome it is. Even though it is online, you will get used to it and have a lot of fun.

21st Century Furniture

by Juliet S.

Over the Winter Break, new furniture was delivered to the school. But this isn't furniture like what most of the classrooms have ever had before. There are rolling chairs, "wobble" seats, stools,

tables, and a thinking nook, which was dubbed by Mr. Edwards as a "thnook." I asked some of the staff on what their opinions are of the new furniture.

Ms. Melissa said that she wished she had had furniture like it when she was in school. The new furniture is very easy to move around and to store things in. Mr. Edwards also said that it is going to change the way that students are grouped together, as the setup allows for more flexibility. Instead of walking over to a classmate's desk, imagine rolling over there in your chair, or simply swiveling around to face them.

Of course, a question on everyone's mind is, "will we get to see the new furniture?" The answer? Who knows. If we do go back to school for a model like Distance Learning Plus sometime this year, we will be in various outdoor spaces, using the old classroom furniture to do our work. It is probable that TK-4th will see it when we go back to school,

but the answer for 5th graders is still unclear. In the meantime, we will have something new to see when we go back to school, and try it out ourselves. Luckily, Dr. Benjamin put together a video for families to see the new furniture.



Middle School Electives

by Juliet S.

(Please note: This article was written before Lincoln's Show on the Road)

Middle School might seem like a century

away, but it's where we're all heading next after McKinley. On Monday, Lincoln counselors will come to the 5th grade classrooms to talk about Middle School and our elective choices. That night, they also will host Show on the Road, where counselors and students will talk about the experience of being at Lincoln. One

of the new experiences are electives, classes that students choose to take. The electives are:

1. Exploratory

In the Exploratory elective, students study French, Project Lead the Way, Ted-Ed, and Music each for a period of 10 weeks.

2. Music

You can take Orchestra, Band, or Chorus at three different levels.

3. ASB

Associated Student Body is student leadership and government.

If you are a 5th grader and would like to learn more, you can go to the email sent out to all 5th grade families to hear more about these exciting electives.

MCKINLEY NEWS

10 Questions With a McKinley Lion: Ms. Le

by Matthew S.

Ms. Le is famous at McKinley for her Wax Museum and Hero Projects. As one of her former students, I was curious who Ms. Le would consider as her hero. After interviewing her, I found out it was her father, who she says, “took care of our large family with what little he had.” Ms. Le’s father, now a successful business owner, and the rest of her family left Vietnam on a fishing boat for China. She was born in Hong Kong and then they immigrated to the U.S. when she was just 1 ½ years old. She is one of 7 kids! Read on to find out how much she still loves spending time with her family and how Dr. Seuss and art helped her as an English language learner. And if you ever want to see how you rank in the card game, Speed, you might want to challenge Ms. Le to a game! She is undefeated!

1. *What was your favorite book when you were a kid?*

The thing is I’m an English language learner, so English was hard for me to understand. Dr. Seuss was my favorite. There was a more obvious pattern to his books.

2. *What was your favorite school subject?*

My favorite subject was art and still is art. There isn’t a language barrier with art, so everyone can have their own feeling and there is not a right or wrong feeling towards art. It is like one language. We can all appreciate art, so I love art. I even won an Easter Egg drawing contest. I believe that was in first grade. I was so happy and proud of myself because that was the only subject I was good in. Again, I was an English language learner

and at the time I just immigrated to the United States, so art was my language that I understood.

3. *What is your favorite movie?*

My favorite movie was Beauty and the Beast. I think the only reason why that was my favorite was because that was the only movie (and a couple of other movies) that we had on VHS, so we would watch that over and over and over, so that is my favorite. In high school my favorite movie (and it still is my favorite) is Powder. It is about a boy that is different from the people in his community. It is a sad story. Great moral.

4. *What is your favorite board or card game?*

My favorite board game is Candyland, which was our first board game. We would play this game over and over and over. Almost every day. Even if we were missing pieces, we would substitute the pieces. My favorite card game is Speed. I’m still the fastest. I’m unbeatable!

5. *What is your favorite sport to play?*

My favorite sport to play when I was a kid would be baseball or softball. All you needed was a ball and a stick, so that is what we would use. A ball and a stick. We would even use other things when the ball would go missing. It was an easy game. We would play in the backyard. It would be fun. It was great to have a lot of siblings because there were already two teams – 3 per team. It was really hard for our parents to get things for all 7 kids, so we had to share, we had to improvise, we had to be creative. We were outside a lot.

6. *What are three things you like to do outside of school?*

I like to be with my family. Often we would go on hikes, camping, and we love to have dinners together. That would be

my most favorite thing to do outside of school. Just to be with my family. Currently, they are all in Colorado, so when I do visit them I do value every minute that I have with them.

7. *What is your favorite food?*

My favorite food would be pizza because there are all these options and topping choices. For my birthday, I had a pizza making party where I bought pizza dough and we just made mini pizzas. I love doing that with my nieces and nephews, too. We would have a pizza making dinner. We would make our own pizzas and I think it is just the feeling of all being together making our own dinner. Choosing all these toppings. Sharing “Look at all my toppings” and “try my slice!” I think it is more about the togetherness.

8. *What is your favorite candy?*

A lot of people are shocked that I don’t like chocolate. I’m not a big chocolate person, so my favorite candy is the Mexican candy that has the tamarind chili powder over it. They have mango flavor and watermelon. It is a hard candy, but they coat it with a Mexican sweet tamarind, spicy, like powdered sugar. It has a spicy and sweet tamarind flavor. I like that mixture.

9. *What is your favorite animal?*

My dog. I adopted her at the age of 2 ½ years old from a shelter in Torrance. She is 13 ½ now. She is a shih tzu – poodle mix. She is my favorite. She is my first dog. My dog’s name is Midnight.

10. *Can you tell us some interesting facts about you?*

1. I sleep walk.
2. I have two older sisters and 4 older brothers.
3. I was born in Hong Kong.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Among Us Game Review

by Matthew S.

In the last year it has been difficult for many of us to socialize with our friends. One game that makes this possible (and still allows you to follow social distancing protocols) is the game Among Us. Among Us is a popular murder-mystery game that came out three years ago. You can play this game on a computer, smart phone, tablet or a Nintendo Switch. What makes this a great option for you to play with your friends is that you need a maximum of 10 players and a minimum of 4. I would suggest at least 8 players for it to be really fun.

The game takes place in a spaceship. Before each game begins you are assigned a

little astronaut. In order to tell the difference between each astronaut, the astronaut's suits are different colors. These colors are chosen by each player. You can also customize your astronauts with hats. When you start the game there are two types of players. The first type of player is a crewmate. These crewmates go and do short minigames called tasks. If all of the crewmates finish all their tasks, they instantly win the game. The second player is the imposters. There are normally 2 imposters who both team up to kill all the crewmates to win the game. While they are doing this, they are sabotaging rooms so the crewmates can't see or see the tasks. They can also sabotage the reactor and the oxygen. If you don't fix them in the time limit, the crewmates instantly lose.



Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates, Part 1

by Sienna N.

I never expected that a documentary would make me happy to have a toilet. Let me explain:

In poor countries, many towns don't have pipes to remove bathroom waste, which is called sewage. The sewage ends up in rivers, which is also the place where people get their drinking water. As a re-

sult, many kids are becoming sick with diarrhea from the germs and parasites in the water. Half a million kids die from diarrhea.

The three part Netflix documentary, "Inside Bill's Brain" follows the Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, as he works on solutions to some of the world's biggest problems. Part One shows how in 2005, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation decided they wanted to do something about the sewage problems in poor countries. They held a competition to

find a toilet that could process the sewage and could reuse it to turn it into energy that powers the toilet. Many of the models were successful but way too expensive to build. Then he went to China to find companies that could build the new toilet cheaply, and it is now used in poor countries.

He also worked with an engineer who came up with an efficient sewage treatment factory that boiled the waste and turned it into steam, which powered the factory. The factory could also filter urine and turn it into clean drinking water. He built the factory in Dakar, Senegal, so that it could filter the waste and provide clean drinking water for many people that didn't have it before.

I recommend this documentary because it shows how lucky we are to have clean drinking water, bathrooms and sewage systems. And I'm really happy that people are trying to get these things into developing countries. I really enjoyed this documentary, and you probably will too.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Video Game Recommendations for 2021

by Daisy M.

Have you found yourself starting to play video games? Well if you can't choose just one to play, I have a few you can pick from.

Among Us has been a growing game with increasing popularity. I personally find it fun. The whole point of the game is for the crewmate astronauts to try to finish all their tasks before the imposter eliminates anyone. The imposter's goal is to eliminate everyone and stay low key and blend in with the crewmates. I would find the game for kids a little older than 7. This is because there is the slightest bit of violence when the crewmates get eliminated. But other than that, the game can show creativity. You can give your astronaut a 10 lettered name. I usually keep mine to my nickname, but you can feel free to name yourself whatever you want. Once you enter 'the lobby', you can chat with the players, and change your characters

color and hat. The game is free to play (on the PC it costs \$5). The only thing that costs money is the pets and some hats, but most hats are free.

ROBLOX is a game that has millions of 'mini' games within the app. There are coding programs to make good games on ROBLOX. You can find many of the already made video games on ROBLOX. For example, Among Us has a ROBLOX version called Amongst Us. They didn't make it exactly like the real game because the creator possibly didn't get permission from innersloth to use the same set up. You can also be really creative and make completely new things that might end up being on a t-shirt. Speaking of t-shirts, roblox allows you to be so creative, that you can make your own clothes for your ROBLOX avatar. If you are a new youtuber, then this game would be a really good game for you to play on your videos, there are a lot of youtubers that are on ROBLOX. You can friend your friends on ROBLOX, you just have to find the add 'friend button' and find your friends username.

Just Dance 2021 is the 11th instalment of the Just Dance games. I would definitely recommend this game for everyone because it has a mix of playing the video game part and dancing. Not that I don't like it, but I would recommend playing it during the summer. Hopefully the vaccine comes around, so you can play with your friends. Just dance brings back a popular song by Eminem called Without Me. I know what you are probably thinking, "Don't most rap songs have curse words?" Well let me answer that for you, yes they do, but not in just dance. This game was designed for kids, so that is why just dance blocks out all grown-up related words from the song. Even in the songs you heard a million times but didn't catch the words. Just Dance has a gift machine that you can play so that you can unlock new avatars, backgrounds, skins, and aliases.

Mario Deluxe features the all mighty Mario of all those great Mario games. In this great game, Mario is trying to save Princess Peach with a group of friends. I would recommend this game for any kid or anyone who has a good spirit and can set the goal of saving Princess Peach. My sisters and cousin love playing this game and are never actually Mario because apparently, he is a 'weak' character. Mario Kart Deluxe is another mario game on the Nintendo switch. It's a family racing game that is fun to play during the weekends. I like how the game has all these nintendo characters, including Mario, who have vehicles to race in Nintendo themed race tracks. For example, The legend of Zelda is a Nintendo game that is featured on the nintendo switch, and on Mario Kart 8.

If any of these recommendations make you want the game, then just ask your parents, with permission.